

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/710,665	CHENG, LINIX	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Alexander S. Beck	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 8 November 2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7 and 8.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed Nov. 8, 2007, in which: claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are amended; and claims 2 and 6 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are currently pending and an Office action on the merits follows.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1 and 5, U.S. Patent No. 6,427,288 to Saito ("Saito") discloses Saito discloses an interface apparatus in Figures 1-3 comprising: a base (1); a display panel (20); a shaft (19 and housing of 20) connected to the display panel and movably disposed on the base, wherein the shaft is movable in up, down, left, right, or diagonal directions, and is rotatable in a plane parallel with a plane of the display panel; wherein when the shaft is moved, the shaft simultaneously moves the display panel (Saito, col. 4, ll. 14-31; see also col. 5, l. 57 – col. 6, l. 42). Saito does not disclose expressly wherein the interface apparatus comprises a receiving circuit, the display panel transforming a received video signal into an image; or a detecting module generating a detecting signal when the shaft is moved, and when the shaft and display panel are rotated in the plane parallel with a plane of the display panel, the images displayed on the display panel move corresponding to the rotation of the interface apparatus.

U.S. Patent No. 6,115,025 to Buxton et al. ("Buxton") discloses a computer system in Figure 1 comprising: a mainframe (10) providing a video signal; and an interface apparatus (12, 14) electrically connected to the mainframe, the interface

apparatus comprising: a base (inherently suggested in the desktop monitor for supporting the display panel); a receiving circuit for receiving the video signal (inherently suggested in the display panel for displaying information from the mainframe); a display panel (e.g., screen and driving circuitry of 12) for transforming the video signal into an image and displaying the image; a shaft (18) connected to the display panel and movably disposed on the base, wherein the shaft is rotatable in a plane parallel with a plane of the display panel; and a detecting module (14) for detecting a movement of the shaft relative to the base and outputting a detecting signal; wherein when the shaft is moved, the shaft simultaneously moves the display panel, and the detecting module outputs the detecting signal to the mainframe, and when the shaft and the display panel are rotated in the plane parallel with a plane of the display panel, the images displayed on the display panel move corresponding to the rotation of the interface apparatus (Buxton, col. 4, ll. 4-65.) At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Saito such that the interface apparatus was provided with the mainframe, receiving circuit, display panel and detecting module of Buxton. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to allow a user to change the orientation of a physical display while the on screen user interface maintains its original orientation, sense changes in the orientation of the physical display, and keep the user interface aligned with the user as the display orientation changes to thereby maintain position or direction sensitive components of the interface aligned with the user (Buxton, col. 1, ll. 7-15) As the orientation of the display changes, the viewpoint of or view port onto the object may also change, which is particularly advantageous in applications that provide virtual representations of models (Buxton, col. 4, ll. 58-65).

Furthermore, Saito as modified by Buxton teaches/suggests wherein the shaft (19 and housing of 20) further comprises at least one handle (e.g., an end of the housing) connected to the display panel for a user to move the shaft (Saito, Figs. 1-3). For

example, Saito discloses wherein the display panel is to be rotated by applying pressure to the display panel to thereby rotate element 19 by hand and change the display orientation (Saito, col. 5, l. 57 – col. 6, l. 42).

However, none of the prior art made of record teaches or suggests an interface apparatus or computer system comprising a base, a shaft connected to a display panel and movably disposed on the base, the shaft comprising at least one handle connected to the display panel for a user to move the shaft, the position of each handle being adjustable with respect to the display panel, wherein when the shaft is moved, the shaft simultaneously moves the display panel, and a detecting module generates a detecting signal, and when the shaft and the display panel are rotated in the plane parallel with a plane of the display panel, the images displayed on the display panel move corresponding to the rotation of the interface apparatus, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

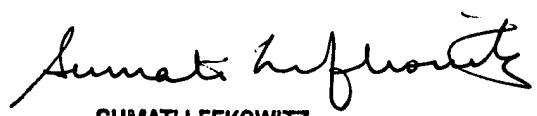
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander S. Beck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7765. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

asb
Jan. 14, 2008



SUMATI LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER